

- nearby natural areas (e.g. Blue Mountains National Park);
- offering opportunities, at lookouts and on walking tracks, to view and appreciate the wonderful extent of heritage attractions without having to travel too far from the amenities of Lithgow;
- providing a buffer to the adjoining national parks and more remote escarpment forests, thus ensuring higher environmental values in these areas, while offering views of broad areas of remote bushland and the sense of freedom experienced from such remoteness.

2.2 An opportunity waiting

Borne of the current low level of visitation to *Destination Pagoda* is focused on inappropriate, damaging and illegal activities. Some areas are unsightly with eroding tracks and other degradation. This situation discourages other, lower impact visitors from larger demographics, such as families looking for quiet activities in nature and educational groups. Good basic facilities including appropriate 2WD access are needed to attract nature-based family visitors and other benign demographics.

The main developed attraction for current visitors is the Glow Worm Tunnel in the adjoining Wollemi National Park. Most visitors there simply drive through Newnes State Forest without stopping. The Bicentennial Trail traverses the western margins of *Destination Pagoda* for through-travellers on foot, bicycle and horseback. Hardy bushwalkers, canyoneers and other experienced recreationists with special skills are already attracted to the rugged escarpments and gorges, and do not require facilities specifically for them. This group of visitors, however, will be attracted to Lithgow once more services

Destination Pagoda a grand new tourism attraction for Lithgow

